

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

As Members of Congress representing of some of the largest natural gas producing regions in the country we are writing to strongly urge for the reconsideration and reversal of the decision outlined in your announcement on January 26, 2024, regarding the pause on pending approvals of liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports. The resumption of this process is crucial for advancing our LNG capabilities, recognizing the pivotal role natural gas plays for our economy and national security.

The economic benefits of natural gas for the U.S. cannot be overstated. The U.S. natural gas industry is a powerhouse, supporting over 10 million American jobs directly. Furthermore, the industry played a vital role in supporting nearly \$1.8 trillion in U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) in 2021.¹ These figures underscore the indispensable role of the natural gas industry in driving economic growth, job creation, and overall prosperity for our nation.

The responsible development and export of American natural gas contribute significantly to job creation, economic growth, and a positive trade balance. By fostering a robust natural gas industry, we stimulate investment, enhance domestic manufacturing, and create well-paying jobs across various sectors. A reversal of the pause on LNG export applications is not just a strategic imperative but also an economic necessity, ensuring the continued prosperity of our nation.

Continuing advances in natural gas production underscore the urgency and importance of revisiting the decision to pause pending approvals of LNG exports. Natural gas, as a cleaner-burning fossil fuel, offers significant environmental benefits, particularly when compared other fossil fuels. Natural gas emits approximately 50-60% less carbon dioxide (CO₂) than other fossil fuels.² Moreover, the combustion of natural gas produces fewer pollutants such as sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and particulate matter when compared to other fossil fuels. It is important to note that American natural gas, especially from the Marcellus Shale region, is produced in a manner that is cleaner than anywhere else in the world, reflecting our collective commitment to high environmental standards in energy production.

Beyond the environmental implications, resuming the consideration of LNG export applications is crucial for our national security and strategic interests. Our allies depend on a secure and reliable source of LNG, and by withholding approvals, we risk pushing them into the arms of less stable and potentially adversarial suppliers. This decision not only threatens the energy security of our allies but also undermines our geopolitical standing and influence in an increasingly competitive global energy market.

The U.S. natural gas industry plays a pivotal role in establishing energy security for our nation and its allies. LNG export projects are indispensable for ensuring that we continue to function as the economic “arsenal

¹ <https://www.api.org/-/media/Files/Policy/American-Energy/PwC/2023/API-PWC-Economic-Impact-Report-2023.pdf>

² <https://www.api.org/-/media/Files/Policy/American-Energy/PwC/2023/API-PWC-Economic-Impact-Report-2023.pdf>

of democracy” during geopolitical incidents such as the war in Ukraine. However, the effectiveness of this role hinges on a permitting system that allows for the planning, construction, and operation of export capabilities with a reasonable degree of speed and certainty. The uncertainty a pause to LNG export applications brings hinders our ability to bring American natural gas to the world market, limiting the economic and strategic advantages the United States can provide.

While we can appreciate the complexity of the decision-making process, I strongly urge your administration to act decisively in favor of a balanced approach. Consideration of environmental stewardship, economic prosperity, national security, and strategic alliances should guide an immediate and unequivocal reversal of the pause on LNG export applications.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. We look forward to the swift reversal of the pause on LNG export applications and the realization of the benefits that the continued expansion of LNG exports will have for our nation and the rest of the world.

Sincerely,



Dan Meuser
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



JD Vance
United States Senator